AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for preventing a user from automatically advancing an audio/video signal past marked material comprising the steps of:

(A) detecting possible triggering events during encoding of said audio/video signal;

(B) generating one or more scores of various levels in response to said triggering events;

(C) marking a portion of said audio/video signal in response to said one or more scores; and

(D) preventing said user from advancing past said marked material during playback in response to said one or more scores, wherein a particular one of said scores is used to determine how aggressive said method determines whether said triggering events are detected.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) comprises detecting synchronized audio and video statistics from both an audio portion and a video portion of said audio/video signal.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

adapting one or more thresholds and detection criteria used to generate said one or more scores.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

skipping an undesirable material during said playback in response to one of said scores; and

inserting alternate material in place of said undesirable material advanced past.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein said advancing past said undesirable material is selectively enabled and disabled in response to a user input.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of said one or more scores is used to generate a playlist used to determine a particular portion of the marked material to skip.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) further comprises recording said audio/video signal in an encoded form.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) includes said triggering events occurring at a beginning of said marked material and at an end of said marked material.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said marked material comprises advertisements.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

replacing said marked material with alternate material.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 23 ~~1~~, wherein a particular one of said scores is used to determine how aggressive said method determines whether said triggering events are detected.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit configured to generate (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more score signals of various levels in response to an input signal; and

a data storage device configured to (i) store said audio/video data signal and said one or more score signals and (ii) generate an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video data signal and (b) one of said score signals, wherein (i) said apparatus is configured to prevent a user from skipping a marked portion of said audio/video data signal and (ii) a particular one of said scores is used to determine how aggressive said apparatus determines whether a triggering event has been detected.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said apparatus is integrated into an audio/video playback system.

15. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device generates said output signal in further response to a user input.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a random access storage device.

17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a hard disk drive.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises an optical disk drive.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said detector circuit comprises an audio processor and a video processor each configured to detect a plurality of triggering events used to generate said scores.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus further comprises an analyzer circuit configured to generate said scores in response to said triggering events.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CANCEL)

23. (NEW) A method for preventing a user from automatically advancing an audio/video signal past marked material comprising the steps of:

(A) detecting possible triggering events during encoding of said audio/video signal, wherein said detecting comprises detecting synchronized audio and video statistics from both an audio portion and a video portion of said audio/video signal;

(B) generating one or more scores of various levels in response to said triggering events;

(C) marking a portion of said audio/video signal in response to said one or more scores; and

(D) preventing said user from advancing past said marked material during playback in response to said one or more scores.